AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims.

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant comprising a gene encoding a modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide, wherein said modified polypeptide comprises one or more amino acids within loop β1,α8 replaced with one or more amino acids having increased hydrophobicity, wherein said replacement results in one or more amino acid ~~replacement is~~ substitutions selected from the group consisting of Ser311 replaced by ~~alanine, isoleucine,~~ leucine, ~~or threonine,~~ Asn313 replaced by ~~arginine, histidine,~~ threonine ~~or valine~~, and Glu317 replaced by ~~alanine, asparagine,~~ lysine ~~or valine~~.

41. (Currently amended) A progeny plant or seed from the transgenic plant of claim 40, ~~47,~~ 48 or 49, wherein said progeny plant or seed comprises said gene encoding said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide.

42. (Previously amended) A seed from the progeny plant of claim 41, wherein said seed comprises said gene encoding said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide.

43. (Previously amended) A plant from the seed of claim 41 or 42, wherein said plant comprises said gene encoding said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a Coleopteran-resistant transgenic plant, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a) obtaining a nucleic acid segment comprising a gene encoding a modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide, wherein:

said modified polypeptide comprises one or more point mutations in or near α helix 4, wherein said one or more point mutations result in at least one amino acid substitution of

~~selected from the group consisting of Leu158 to Arg, Ser160 to Asn, Lys161 to Pro, Arg162 to His,~~ Asp165 to Gly~~, Lys189 to Gly~~;

(b) transforming a plant cell with said nucleic acid segment; and

(c) regenerating from said plant cell a transgenic plant, which expresses said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide and wherein said transgenic plant is resistant to Coleopteran insects as compared to a non-transformed plant and wherein the transgenic plant is resistant to corn rootworm insects as compared to a non-transformed plant.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein step a) further comprises operatively linking the gene to a promoter, and introducing said nucleic acid segment into a vector, and wherein step b) comprises transforming a plant cell with said vector.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said modified polypeptide further comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of His231 replaced by arginine, Ser311 replaced by ~~alanine,~~ leucine ~~or threonine~~, Asn313 replaced by threonine, Glu317 replaced by lysine, and Gln348 replaced by arginine.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim 40 ~~or 47~~, wherein said modified polypeptide further comprises amino acid substitution of His231 replaced by arginine.

49. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant of claim 40 or ~~47~~ 48, wherein said modified polypeptide further comprises amino acid substitution of Gln348 replaced by arginine.

50. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 40, wherein said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:60, SEQ ID NO:66, SEQ ID NO:108, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:100, SEQ ID NO:24 or SEQ ID NO:30.

51. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 48, wherein said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:108, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:100 or SEQ ID NO:30.

52. (New) The transgenic plant of claim 51, wherein said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:100.

53. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:56, SEQ ID NO:60, SEQ ID NO:62, SEQ ID NO:66 or SEQ ID NO:108.

54. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said modified polypeptide is SEQ ID NO:60, SEQ ID NO:62, SEQ ID NO:66 or SEQ ID NO:108.